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FACT SHEET DISCUSSING ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP ACTIVITIES AT AREA OF
CONCERN 1 CSS PANAMA CITY FL
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CSS PANAMA CITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



Installation Restoration Program

Fact Sheet 1

December 1998

This fact sheet has been developed to inform the public about on going environmental cleanup activities at the Coastal System Station (CSS) Panama City in Panama City, Florida. The base Installation Restoration (IR) Program investigates and cleans up areas of contamination from past practices at military installations nationwide. Fact sheets will be produced at program milestones and in response to public interest. Distribution is coordinated through the CSS Panama City Public Affairs Office (850) X- X

Environmental Cleanup Activities CSS Panama City AOC1

What is going on?

The U.S. Navy has been working toward cleaning up the environment through many programs, including the Installation Restoration (IR) Program. By finding and cleaning up contamination from past waste management and disposal activities, we at Coastal Systems Station (CSS) Panama City can better protect public health and the environment today. We want you to know how far we have come in our cleanup efforts.

What area is being cleaned up?

The Navy calls sites being investigated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Areas of Concern (AOCs) and Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs). Several sites have already been investigated fully and have progressed to the point of cleanup. One of these areas is termed AOC1.

AOC1 is a former fire fighting training area used by the station firefighters from the 1950s to the late 1970s. In the course of training, flammable materials and fuel including waste oil, fuels, paint, paint thinners, and bilge water were placed in the training area, ignited, and then extinguished by the station fire fighters. Fuels that did not burn during the fire fighting training have moved down through the soil to reach the groundwater. AOC1 is currently a fenced and paved open storage area.

What has been done so far?

Study of the damage to the area has identified needs for cleanup to the subsurface soil and groundwater. A groundwater treatment system has been in operation since July 30, 1998, to collect fuels for treatment. This groundwater treatment system also addresses subsurface soil needs by removing fuels that have not already dissolved in the groundwater. A corrective-measures implementation plan has been prepared to discuss the completion of the remaining remedial activities to be performed. Study of the groundwater at AOC1 has identified low concentrations of dissolved fuels. Low concentrations of dissolved fuels often

decrease in the environment under the right conditions. Decreasing concentrations of dissolved fuels in the environment can occur through several natural processes referred to as natural attenuation. The natural processes include: (1) biological degradation of the dissolved fuels by bacteria in the soil and groundwater, (2) dilution of the dissolved fuels with local groundwater, and (3) adsorption of the dissolved fuel into the organic particles of the soil. All of these natural processes help to lower the fuel concentrations.

What Cleanup Activities Will Be Initiated?

Since low concentrations of dissolved fuels will naturally decrease, a monitoring program has been set up to verify that the dissolved fuel concentrations are decreasing and will not migrate from their present location at AOC1. The groundwater will be monitored through four monitoring wells installed at the site. Initially, every three months, groundwater samples will be collected from these monitoring wells and sent to a laboratory for testing. The testing will determine if concentrations are remaining dissolved in the groundwater at AOC1.

During the first year of sampling, the laboratory results will be entered into a groundwater model to monitor and predict groundwater contaminant changes. The model will be updated every year with new laboratory results. If the dissolved fuels do not decrease to acceptable concentrations by the end of the five-year monitoring period, additional remedial efforts will be considered. One possible remedial effort is to restrict the future use of the groundwater around AOC1.

